Implementation of Nuclear power Plants Projects

788. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Nuclear power Capacity accounts for only about 2.5% of the total energy generated in the country;

(b) the record of implementation of our Nuclear Power Plant Projects have been poor resulting in long delays and heavy cost overruns; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken by Government to improve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) The share of nuclear power accounted for 2.7% of the total energy generated in the country during 1998-99.

(b) and (c) The delays and cost over-runs in the nuclear power projects were essentially due to the development of indigenous technology and delays in delivering the equipment contributed by restrictive control regimes prevalent internalionally in this field.

220 MWe nuclear power plants have now been standardised by developing indigenous design, manufacture and construction technologies. These plants are now operating at high capacity indicating attainment of maturity of the technology. Design for 500 MWe nuclear power plants has also been developed and one such plant with 2 units is now under contruction at Tarapur in Maharashtra.

The following steps are taken for the speedy completion of the projects.

— Completion of adequate design and engineering before commencing the construction of the project.

— Timely manufacture of components equipment in the context of the experience gained in the field.

— Adopted appropriate work packages to enable speedy completion.

— use of mechanised construction methods etc.

— providing required funds by way of Government budgetary support consistent with the objectives of Five Year Plans and availability of resources.

— Obtaining clearance from regulatory authorities well in time.

— Employing better management techniques etc.

Target of Nuclear Power by 2020

789. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set a target of 20,000 MW of Nuclear Power by the year 2020;

(b) the current installed capacity is 1840 MW plus 880 MW in the pipeline; and

(c) if so, how does Government plan to achieve this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The following is the projection of the programme for unclear power generation during the Ninth Five Year Plan and beyond the Ninth Five year Plan, subject to availability of financial resources.